species in 1922, the fern had been collected earlier too from Indian localities. In the Central National Herbarium, Sibpur, (Howrah, India) there are lying at least three sheets of *Pityrogramma calomelanos,* one from Peninsular India and two from Eastern Himalayas. The peninsular specimen was collected by Mr. H. F. Blanford in 1886 at Mercara, Coorg with the insertion "cultivated and naturalized". One of the sheet from the E. Himalayas bears the label: Herb. Hort. Bot. Calcuttensis, Flora of Sikkim, Loc. Mungpoo, 2000 ft alt. dated 17.11.1908, W. G. Craib, no. 146 (introduced?). It becomes clear that at least as early as 1886, *P. calomelanos* was collected from S. India and in 1908 from Sikkim. One of the probable reasons for the non-inclusion of this fern in the 1892 supplement to the ferns of British India by Beddome may be because the species was taken to be introduced rather than native.

In India, the species is reported to occur from a number of places in the foot hills of N. E. India generally rising upto 900 m altitude and west coast of S. India. The statement of Chandra (1963, p. 1) that "*P. calomelanos* occurs throughout India in the plains" is unjustified. In N. India, the species occurs in the foothills of Eastern Himalayas and is particularly abundant in bright, open, sunny and comparatively drier slopes where the vegetation is denuded or the sites have been exposed through land slides or recent cuttings. At Teesta and along roads from Teesta to Gangtok, Kalimpong and Manjitar (Darjeeling and Sikkim Himalayas) the fern is fairly abundant and very often is associated with *Onychium siliculosum* (Desv.) C. Chr. and *Pteris vittata* L. Chandra (1963) has reported its occurrence as high as Gangtok (1500 m alt.) supported by his collection, Chandra 69426 (NBG, Lucknow).

From Western Himalayas there is as yet no report of the species, although Chandra (1963, p. 3) did mention under the distribution "Terrai regions of North U. P." He did not cite any collection and if his insertion is based on the occurrence of *Pellaea calomelanos* near Almora (N. W. Himalayas), it may be deleted.

S. C. Verma
Panjab University, Chandigarh

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A NEW SPECIES OF *SCHEFFLERA* J. R. & G. FORST., FROM BHUTAN

Schefflera bhutanica R. N. Banerjee sp. nov.

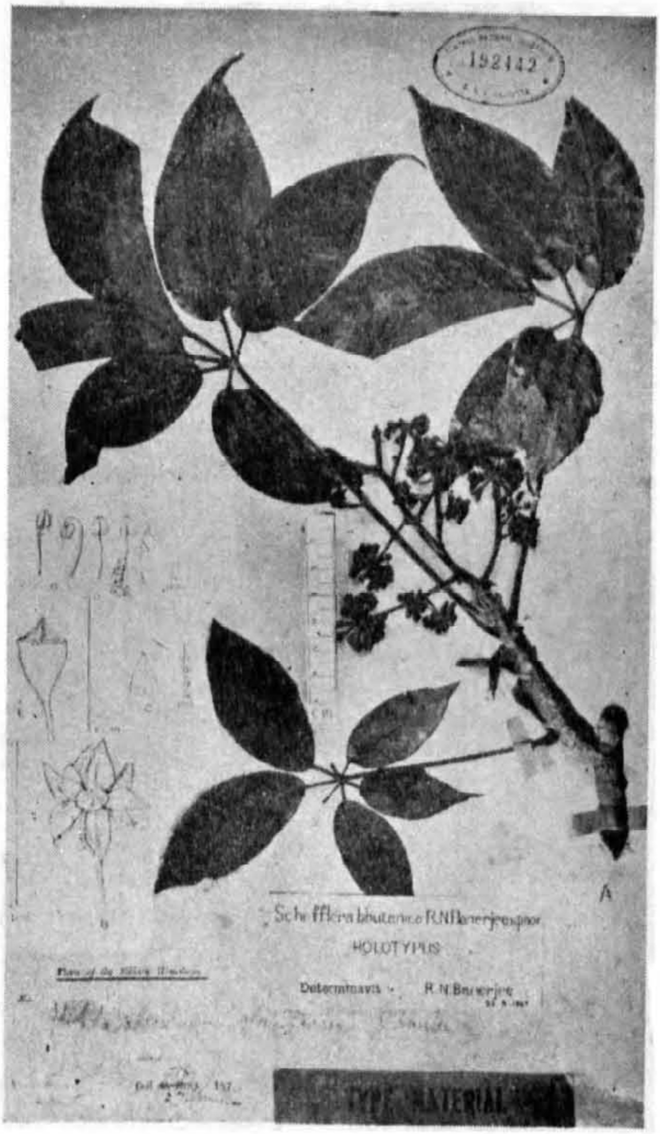
Accedit ad S. venulosam (Wt. & Arn.) Harms, a que tamen differt bracteis et bracteolis persistentibus, floribus maioribus in umbellas tomentosas maioresque dispositis, calyce stellato-pubescente, petalis uni-nervis, filamentis quam petalis longioribus in alabastro incurvis.

A small(?) tree. Stem terete, glabrous, bark hard. Leaves alternate, stipulate, digitately 7-foliate, petiolate; petioles glabrous, terete 25-30 cm long; leaflets petiolulate, dorsal surface shiny, ventral surface smooth, ovate elliptic, 5.5-11.5 cm long, 2-4.5 cm wide, acuminate, base rounded, entire, unicostate reticulate, lateral nerves more than 10 on each side; nerves distinct on ventral surface; petiolules 0.5-2 cm long, lateral ones shorter than the rest, terete. Inflorescence terminal, umbel, slightly tomentose, 8-14 cm long, pedunculate, bracteate; bracts ovate, entire, boat shaped, ± 2 mm long, persistent; peduncles ± 2 cm long having stellate hairs; bracteoles minute, 1 mm long, persistent; umbels 15-20 flowered, ± 2 cm in diameter; flowers pedicellate, bisexual, polypetalous, ± 1 cm long. Calyx cup-shaped with stellate hairs, 5-lobed; lobes minute. Corolla polypetalous; petals 5 glabrous on both surfaces, 3 mm long, 2 mm wide, triangular in outline. Stamens 5, alternating with petals; filament 5 mm long, exserted, incurved in bud. Anthers yellow, ± 1.5 mm long, dorsifixed, bilobed. Ovary 5 celled; disk raised; style 1 mm long; stigmas 5 connate. Fruits ovoid with ridges; ridges 5-6 in number.

Locality: Bhutan, 1220 m collected by A. B. on 27th November, 1876. Holotype is preserved in the Central National Herbarium (CAL), under the accession number 192442. The isotype under the accession number 192430 is preserved in the same herbarium.

This species is allied to *Schefflera venulosa* (W. & A.) Harms. but differs from it mainly by the presence of persistent bracts and bracteoles, inflorescence tomentose, diameter of the umbels larger. Flowers larger and more in an umbel. Calyx stellately hairy, petals 1-nerved and filaments longer than the petals, incurved in bud. In habit and foliation the species approaches *S. glauca* Harms. to some extent but differs in (1) Nature of leaflets, (2) nature of inflorescence, (3) structure of petals, (4) nature of floral disk, (5) length of style, (6) nature of stigma, (7) shape of fruits.

R. N. Banerjee
Botanical Survey of India, C. N. H., Calcutta


192442
A
B
Schefflera bhutanica R.N.Banerjee sp. nov.
HOLOTYPUS
Determinavit R.N.Banerjee
TYPE MATERIAL

Schefflera bhutanica R. N. Banerjee sp. nov.
Figs. A-E : A. Flowering twig. B. Flower. C. A petal. D. Stamens separated from the flower. E. Petals removed showing the disk and very short styles united into a cone.